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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

801-809 G St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

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IT PAYS TO ORGANIZE.

Boston, Dec. 28.—For some time the American Federation of Labor has been endeavoring to secure the organization of the men employed in the packing houses of this city. Success has been attained in large degree, and as a result of the organization of a large per cent of the employes in this industry an increase in the wage rate has been announced by some of the packing companies. The management of the packing houses in Cambridge recently announced an increase of $1 per week to all employes. This increase went into effect on Monday, December 23. Fifteen thousand persons will participate in this increase in wages.

INTRODUCE LABOR BILLS.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Congressman Lafferty of Oregon recently introduced three bills relating to labor conditions in the District of Columbia. These bills provide for the limiting of hours of labor in the District, a public service commission, and a minimum wage commission. One bill provides that the hours of labor in the District be limited to eight per day or forty-eight a week, in building or construction work, or in any manufacturing or mercantile establishment, laundries, hotels, restaurants, telegraph or telephone exchanges, or in any express company. This bill follows closely the lines of the bill recently introduced in the Senate by Senator La Follette. The bill to create a public service commission provides for three members and, if adopted, the commission would be empowered to fix a minimum scale of prices, fares, and charges, keep public utilities service to a proper standard and preserve statistics and data affecting all public utilities of the District. Another bill provides for a minimum wage commission to consist of three members appointed by the President, and not more than one member of the commission to be an employer of labor. It is provided that the commission be vested with power to determine whether or not wages sufficient for living standards are paid to all employes in any occupation in the District of Columbia. This bill further provides that the employers who fail to accept the commission schedule of wages shall be reprimanded by having their names published, with a further provision that no action for damages on account of such publication shall follow. Fines of from $25 to $500 are also provided.

AN EFFECTIVE BUREAU.

Alexandria, Va., Dec. 28.—Representatives of nine business firms of this city were recently arrested on warrants issued at the instance of the Bureau of Labor, charging them with violations of the State law. Pleas of guilty were entered by the representatives of three factories charged with employing child labor, and fines of $25 each were imposed. Another fine was imposed upon another company charged with working employes more than ten hours per day. One other case was dismissed on account of compliance with the law having been had prior to the trial date. Two or three other cases were held in abeyance, the parties agreeing to comply with the law. The Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics of this State is doing splendid work in enforcing the statutes relating to the employment of children, hours of labor, and other humanitarian statutory provisions.

STATUS OF HATTERS' CASE.

Washington, Dec. 28.—In an item published in last week's Weekly News Letter reference was made to action being taken by the Loewe Hat Company to secure the payment of its judgment against the Hatters' Union by having summons issued to the owners of the homes of union hatters in Danbury, Conn., which have been attached to satisfy the judgment referred to. It now develops that in all probability the plaintiffs in this suit, the Loewe Hat Company, are taking this action in order to preserve the legal status of the attachments against these homes. It is not believed, however, that the complaining hat company will care to take the risk of an actual levy on execution, for the reason that if execution was had and the homes sold and the present judgment reversed, a refund with the consequent expenses would be necessary. The American Federation of Labor, on behalf of the hatters, is perfecting an appeal in this case, which will be filed within the limitations usually accompanying the right of appeal.

ACTIVITY IN MICHIGAN.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 28.—The Central body of this city has decided to call upon the national and international unions to send representatives to this portion of the State for the purpose of arousing a greater interest in the organized labor movement during the coming year. The movement in this city is progressing, with new organizations being formed and a general revival of interest. In other portions of the State there is also added interest. The president of the State Federation of Labor and the legislative committee of the same body are preparing legislation to be introduced at the coming session of the legislature. On the whole, the movement in this State is apparently taking on greater activity than for many years.

RAILWAY CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 28.—Two new charters have been issued by the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen. One lodge has been organized near Bainbridge, Ga., and the other one is located in Pennsylvania, but owing to obvious reasons the name of the city where the organization is located is not given. A satisfactory schedule has also been secured on the M. D. & S. R. Railway in Georgia.

RAILWAYS ON STRIKE LIST.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The railway lines in the western portion of the country, affected by the strike now being carried on by the shop federations, are the Harriman lines, consisting of the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, Houston and Texas Central, San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, Oregon Shortline, Oregon-Washington Railway and Navigation Company, and also the Illinois Central.

PAINTERS WIN STRIKE.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 28.—The painters and paperhangers of this city have practically won their three weeks' strike for 60 cents per day increase. Twenty-eight out of thirty contracting firms have agreed to the new wage scale of $3.60 per day for painters and $4 per day for paperhangers.

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSES

Washington, Dec. 28.—The immigration bill, carrying with it the literacy test advocated by the American Federation of Labor, passed the House of Representatives, December 18, by a vote of 179 yeas to 52 nays. The Senate passed an immigration bill during the last session of Congress. The Senate bill and the House bill as passed differ in some features, and, according to the usual custom, conference committees will now be appointed from both houses for the purpose of harmonizing the differences between the bills, if possible, and report back to both houses. The Senate conferees have been appointed, but the House has failed to do so. It appears now that the conference report will be forthcoming shortly after the reconvening of Congress on January 2, 1913.

COMPENSATION COMMISSION.

Portland, Oreg. Dec. 28.—The commission named by Gov. West to draft a workmen's compensation act, has made public a report in which a copy of a proposed law is incorporated. This proposed bill will go to the legislature with a good chance of passage, as it is modeled after the statute adopted by the State of Washington, but with increased benefits. A State industrial commission is also provided for, with ample power to carry out the provisions of the act. The benefits accruing under the proposed bill, if enacted into law, will average twenty-eight per cent higher than in the State of Washington. The first aid feature is given much prominence and the bill, if enacted, will take effect July 1, 1913. Some of the features are that the benefits are elective and not compulsory, and benefits may be extended to occupations not included by the original draft. The findings of fact are to be final by the commission. Three-fourths of the fund is to be contributed by the employer and one-eighth each by the State and the workmen, and the benefits are not liable for debts of the beneficiary.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE BRANCH.

Boston, Dec. 28.—The Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, through its legislative committee, has already mapped out its plan of action during the session of the coming State Legislature. Among the more important bills which will be introduced and urged are the following: Amendments to the eight-hour law to overcome court interpretations, which have largely nullified the present law; a bill prohibiting the employment of women in any industry more than fifty-four hours per week; limiting the hours of labor of any child between fourteen and sixteen years to five per day, with attendance at school the balance of the day compulsory; pensions for widowed mothers; injunction limitation bill; to facilitate the settlement of trade disputes, barbers' license law; a bill providing for air brakes, glass fronts and nine hours in eleven on all street cars; a bill permitting peaceful persuasion, thereby allowing men on strike to state their grievances to men taking their places.

FIREMEN OFFER TO ARBITRATE.

New York, Dec. 28.—Immediately subsequent to the award of the arbitration board in the matter of the locomotive engineers and the fifty Eastern railroads, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen made demands upon these same railroads for an advanced scale of wages. As noted in last week's News Letter, the committee of managers of the roads mentioned agreed to concede to the firemen advantages similar to those awarded by the board of arbitration in the case of the locomotive engineers, and requested the firemen to waive the demand for additional firemen on certain types of locomotives. It is now reported that the president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen has notified these roads that in preference to a strike vote he is willing to arbitrate under the Erdman act the demands for increased pay and better working conditions.

JOIN A. F. OF L.

Boston, Dec. 28.—The employes of the various hotels in this city some time ago organized under the International Hotel Workers, an independent organization. This organization soon learned that without affiliation with the general labor movement it would be impossible to make any material progress. Realizing this, it has secured affiliation with the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and a charter has been secured through the efforts of General Organizer Frank H. McCarthy. An organizing campaign will now be instituted to secure the affiliation of all the hotel employes in the city.

GET AGREEMENT.

Pittsburg, Dec. 28.—The local union of street and electric railway employes announce that an agreement has been secured betwen the Tri-City Railway and Electric Company, operating between Beaver, Pa., and Steubenville, Ohio, and the local union. This agreement is the first complete one that has ever been secured from the company. There was no controversy relative to wages, but the union sought an agreement covering both the road and the shop men. Several strikes have occurred on this line, the bone of contention being the recognition of the organization. With this agreement secured there is complete harmony now between the road and the employes.

DESIGNATES LABOR PAPER.

Bellingham, Wash., Dec. 28.—The Bellingham Journal, the official organ of the Central Labor Council of this city, has been designated as the official city paper of Bellingham, the contract for the city printing for 1913 having been awarded to this paper by the City Council. The Journal has a wide circulation in the city.

FREE SPEECH ANNIVERSARY.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The first step toward free speech and a free press in England was taken on December 18, 1621, or 291 years ago, when the right of free discussion was claimed by the House of Commons. Up to that time parliamentary debate, adverse to the ruling powers, was not at all safe, and critics of the government were likely to lose their lives or their liberty.

LOSE BY SMALL MARGIN.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 28.—The State canvassing board has completed its work so far as the woman suffrage amendment is concerned, and it has been announced that this amendment has been defeated by the small majority of 761.

MOTORMEN WANT HEAT.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 28.—The organized street railway employes of this city recently held a meeting to approve a bill to be introduced in the next State legislature providing for heating apparatus to be installed in the motormen's vestibule on all street cars in the State of West Virginia. The duties of a motorman in severe cold weather are of such a character that sufficient heat in the forward vestibule is necessary for the safe handling of street cars. Pinched with cold it cannot be expected that a motorman can control a car with as much safety to himself and the public as he would where sufficient heat is provided so that he can exercise his physical strength in operating his car. There are States that have statutes in force regulating the heating of the forward vestibule, and it is desirable that this State should have a similar law.

MINERS' CERTIFICATE LAW.

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 28.—The officials of the United Mine Workers of the anthracite district met in this city recently to discuss the work of the commission appointed to codify the anthracite mine laws. It seems that the commission, or at least a portion of it, is in favor of amending the miners' certificate law in such manner as to permit the issuance of certificates to miners who have two years' experience in any sort of a mine instead of an anthracite coal mine, and that no person but the mine inspector can recommend to the court any person who is eligible to serve on the examining board. In fact, it is stated that some members of the commission desire to entirely overturn the present system now in vogue, with reference to the securing of miners' certificates, together with withdrawing the right of the people to elect inspectors. The United Mine Workers' officials desire some minor changes made and are in the main favorable to the law as it now stands.

RESENTS COURT INTERFERENCE.

Denver, Dec. 28.—"I expect to go to jail, but I have the satisfaction of knowing every employe of the city will have his salary to take to his family Christmas," declared Mayor Arnold, when he was cited for contempt of court after having compelled the city commission to issue the monthly pay checks. The Mayor sometime ago was restrained by order of court from interfering with the commissioners. When Judge Whitford learned of the Mayor's action he ordered him to appear Christmas Eve and explain why he should not be punished for contempt of court. Judge Whitford is the same judge that sentenced to prison the sixteen striking coal miners in the Northern District of Colorado for violating a blanket injunction, and the judge has an unsavory reputation so far as his attitude toward labor is concerned.

MANAGER A DODGER.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 28.—A strike has been on in this city for many weeks against the Imperial Glass Factory by the Glass Packers' Union. The manager of the company caused it to be known that he was willing to discuss the situation with men outside the Glass Packers' Union. Accordingly an organizer for the American Federation of Labor proceeded to this city and endeavored to secure a conference with the manager of the concern, but to the surprise of the organizer, in face of the statement made by the manager, the latter absolutely refused to take the matter up with a representative of the general labor movement. The strike will be continued with vigor.

TROLLEYMEN GET RAISE.

Hamilton, Dec. 28.—The organized motormen and conductors on the street railway lines in this city have arrived at an amicable agreement between the company and the men as to wages and the extension of the present agreement. The employes are at present receiving 18 cents an hour for the first year; 20 cents for the second, and 22 cents for the third year and thereafter. The new schedule increases the wage to 20 cents for the first year, 22 cents for the second, and 25 cents for the third year and thereafter. The present agreement, which will expire in March, 1914, has been extended with the rates above referred to incorporated for two years, or until 1916.

AGGRESSIVE CARPENTERS.

Quincy, Ill., Dec. 28.—Some time ago the carpenters in this city inaugurated a strike against a number of the manufacturing concerns for better conditions. As a result an agreement has been reached with all firms, with the exception of three, and the men have returned to work at the factories where a settlement has been arrived at. Owing to the fact that good mechanics are difficult to obtain, the companies endeavoring to run with inefficient employes are having great difficulty, and the carpenters are confident of eventually securing an agreement from the three firms now endeavoring the defeat the carpenters' union.

NEW COUNCIL ORGANIZED.

Boston, Dec. 28.—The Boston American Federation of Labor Longshoremen's Trade Council has been organized. This council contains the longshoremen's unions which have recently changed their affiliation from the Knights of Labor to the recognized Longshoremens' International Union, together with the Steamship Clerks' Union and the Dock Freight Handlers' Union. This places practically all the waterfront organizations in the council and also in affiliation through their international unions with the American Federation of Labor.

COMMENDABLE CAMPAIGN.

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 28.—James F. Brock, president of the International Union of Laundry Workers, has been very successful in building up the Laundry Workers' Union in this city. From one small institution, employing only a few people, a number of other laundries have been organized, and the membership is increasing at every meeting held.

COLORADO ADOPTS AMENDMENTS.

Denver, Dec. 28.—The official count of the thirty-two constitutional amendments just completed shows that the headless ballot, recall of judicial decisions, recall of elective officers, including judges; women's eight-hour law, and the mothers' compensation act are the more important measures that were adopted by the vote of the people at the recent election.

"CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS."

Washington, Dec. 28.—In pursuing the columns of the Socialist press throughout the country it is noted that much criticism has been proffered relative to commercial and other organizations of capital seeking a charter of corporation in the State of New Jersey. The conclusion reached from the reading of these trenchant criticisms on organizations of capital could only be that the practice of securing corporation charters in the State of New Jersey was reprehensible in the extreme. There seems, however, to be a human attribute which pervades the human family, even including Socialists. The criticisms offered and political policies advanced by the Socialists are not applied by them in the conduct of the actual affairs of life. No comment is necessary upon the following item, which appeared in a local Socialist paper in this city: "A charter of incorporation, prepared by Hillquit and Levane, of New York, for the National Socialist Co-operative Publishing Association, has been filed with the secretary of state at Trenton, N. J. This charter is drawn under the provisions of the New Jersey law affecting co-operative enterprises. The capital stock is put at $25,000, with shares at $5 and bonds at $5 or multiples thereof. After a good many vexatious delays, due to various causes, this work has at last been accomplished. We are now ready to proceed." The publication referred to above is located in Washington and is regularly published in the District of Columbia.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL WASHINGTON

SEAMEN'S HEARINGS END.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The hearings before the Senate Committee on Commerce on the seaman's bill, which continued for over two weeks, has been concluded. The committee, after the holiday adjournment, will begin active work upon its report. There are many interests involved in this question. There is a conflict of opinion in evidence between the Eastern and Western seaboard vessel owners, and a still further difference of opinion between vessel owners on the Great Lakes. There can hardly be a question, however, as to the feasibility and righteousness of securing for the seamen a restoration of their natural rights and the abolition of involuntary servitude. At the last session of Congress a bill acceptable to the organized seamen passed the House of Representatives, and from indications at this time, it is believed that an acceptable bill will be brought out of the Senate Committee on Commerce and passed by the Senate early in the coming year. Legislation on behalf of the seamen has been accentuated since the great Titanic disaster, and as the United States Senate, under the guidance of Senator Smith, of Michigan, inquired into the tragedy referred to, bringing out clearly the incompetent crew employed by this vessel, it is confidently expected that the Senate, in the light of these facts, will pass a bill which will not only restore to the seaman his normal rights, but protect the sea-traveling public.

TRADE EDUCATION AND ABILITY

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 28.—Secretary Frank Duffy, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, states that in Winnipeg, Canada, classes in building construction and steel square have been instituted. In one school alone the instructor has sixty pupils in his class three nights a week. The Winnipeg Union has one instructor in each of the two technical schools. In Calgary, Canada, every man who joins the Carpenters' Union is subject to a strict examination by a special committee of first-class mechanics appointed by the local union. This step was taken by the Calgary Union to remove any prejudice which may exist at present on the score of the oft-heard assertion that any one who uses a hammer and saw can join this union of mechanics and receive the top wage.

EXPRESS RATES EXORBITANT.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission asserts that the most important single piece of work ever done by the commission was the investigation of the express companies, and upon this subject the report says: "That investigation was conducted in great length in very great detail, and with all possible thoroughness. As a result it appeared that many of the practices of express companies were utterly inexcusable; that their methods were archaic, their rates discriminatory and unreasonable. The report of the commission has worked a revolution and rennovation in the methods and rates of express companies."

GRANTED INCREASE.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The members of the supervisory forces at all of the government navy yards have been granted an increase over the present scale. Master electricians receive an advance from $8 per diem to $9.04; master shipfitters, outside, from $8 to $9.04; master machinists, inside, from $7.52 to $9.04; master boat builders, from $6.40 to $7.04; master boilermakers, from $6.24 to $7.04; master mechanic, steelmakers, from $5.52 to $7.04; master coppersmiths, from $6.80 to $7.04; master wharf builders, from $6 to $7.04; master painters, from $5.60 to $6; master flag maker, from $4.40 to $5.04.

DISTRICT CARPENTERS.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 28.—A conference was recently held by the delegates from the Fourth district, comprising several Southern States, of the local unions of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. The general conditions of the Southern territory were gone into thoroughly, and from the reports submitted it appears that the conditions have improved wonderfully since a year ago. Plans were adopted for further activities during the coming year. The next meeting place will be Memphis, Tenn.

INSTITUTE PENSION SYSTEM.

St. Louis, Dec. 28.—It is announced by the management of the Frisco Railway system that the 25,600 employes of that railway are to be the recipients of old age and disability pensions. The plan for granting these pensions, according to the announcement, will be effective July 1, 1913.

A COMMON ERROR.

Washington, Dec. 28.—One of the common errors committed is that of using improper terms in discussing activities of labor unions. The term "closed shop" is frequently used, but is a misnomer, from a trade union standpoint. The American Federation of Labor stands for the "union shop," not the "closed shop." The only closed shops to be found are the shops that are closed to union men. Union men do not "close" union shops. The doors of unions are always open to all who are eligible. Any one discussing the ethics of labor unions no doubt desires to use the proper terminology in the discussion. The "closed shop" is not a synonymous term with the "union shop," although used by many writers to convey a similar meaning. The term "union shop," and not "closed shop" should be applied to all shops where union men are employed.

GOVERNMENT LOOTED.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 28.—A billion dollars' worth of California oil bearing lands, it is stated, will eventually be involved in the government's litigation, which has begun here with the filing of the $350,000,000 action in equity against the Southern Pacific Railway and its subsidiary corporations. Other suits are to follow in which the government will contest the ownership of a total of $750,000,000 worth of land. The suit is brought under the act of Congress, passed July 27, 1866, requiring the Department of Interior to exempt mineral bearing lands in issuing patents to railroads. The government will contend that of 440,000 acres of land on the main line of the Southern Pacific, in California, 45,726 acres are mineral bearing, and must revert to the public domain. The government charges fraudulent practice on the part of the railroad company in securing patents. The land for the most part is in the Coalinger oil fields, and is under lease of a subsidiary corporation of the Southern Pacific, and is a joint defendant in the suit. This illustrates, in part, the piratical policy pursued by the Southern Pacific Railroad in the domain it traverses, and is illuminating in the way of showing the tremendous influence which it has drawn to itself during the long years it has been in peaceful possession of these lands in defiance of the law.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The government supervision over wireless telegraphy is now effective, agreeable to a law passed by Congress four months ago. The arrangements have been completed to carry into effect the new system of wireless telegraphy, both as to the shore stations and steamships operated by commercial companies and the army and navy stations. Government licenses hereafter will be required for all shore stations and for steamers leaving American ports. There are several hundred shore stations along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the Gulf and the Great Lakes and Porto Rico. The number of steamships required to carry wireless under the new law is estimated at 1,000. Every steamer with a carrying capacity of fifty passengers on trips exceeding 200 miles is required to have two operators for its wireless equipment. Safeguards for quick communication between the bridge of steamers and the wireless operating room are also provided. Government inspectors are required to visit the shore stations and ships and to report upon the equipment and efficiency of instruments. These reports are to be made the basis for licenses issued by the government. No station or ship will be permitted to operate a wireless plant without such license. Wireless operators also must be licensed.

STOP STRIKE-BREAKERS.

Cincinnati, Dec. 28.—A number of men recruited to take the place of the striking coal miners in West Virginia were informed by the police as to their intended use by the coal operators, and they left a special car which had already been attached to a Chesapeake and Ohio train. The mines which were seeking strike-breakers are those in the Cabin Creek district of West Virginia. A strike-breaking recruiting agency was opened for the purpose of securing men to act as strike-breakers. The men hired, however, were not informed that there was a strike in progress and that they were to be used as strike-breakers. The Mayor of Cincinnati instructed the police department to inform the men who had been engaged of the exact status of affairs, and upon being informed the men who had been hired refused to proceed on their journey to act in the capacity intended.

WATERPROOFERS WINNING.

Philadelphia, Dec. 28.—The members of a local union attached to the International Brotherhood of Composition Roofers, Damp, and Waterproof Workers are conducting a successful strike. About six weeks ago, failing to secure an amicable adjustment with the employers, the membership went on strike to establish the eight-hour day and the Saturday half-holiday. During the contest thirty-four out of forty recognized contractors have granted the demands made by the men, which means that a large majority of the members have been successful in securing the demands of the organization. This is a splendid achievement when it is stated that the union was only organized on July 12 last.

PARCELS POST ON JANUARY 1.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—All preparations and machinery have been concluded and provided to put into active operation the parcels post system, under direction of the Post-office Department, on January 1, 1913. One of the important regulations of the parcels post is that special stamps must be used upon all matter mailed as fourth-class (parcels post). The ordinary postage stamps on parcels post matter will not be recognized or accepted by post-offices, the regulations providing that parcels post stamps must be used under the new system to be inaugurated.

ANOTHER LABOR TEMPLE.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 28.—Many of the trade unionists in this city have for a number of years endeavored to develop a sentiment in favor of the unions erecting a labor temple. The Central Body finally decided to test the sentiment of the local unions by submitting a proposition for their approval which provides for the erection of such a building. It is expected that the unions will express their approval of the plan and subsequently active preparations will be commenced to secure an appropriate location and funds with which to construct the building.

A FRIGHTFUL TOLL.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Perhaps the most important feature of the annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which has been transmitted to Congress, was the summary of railroad accidents in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1912. This report gives some startling facts relative to the enormous loss of life on American railroads. The compilation of this report shows that the total number of casualties for the year on steam roads was 180,123, of which 10,585 is the number of persons killed and 169,538 represents the number injured, showing an increase of 189 in total number of persons killed and 19,379 in the number injured.

LAW WORKS WELL.

Worcester, Mass., December 28.—Compensation approximating $597,000 has been awarded workmen in the first five months' operation of the employers' liability law. There has been 4,000 accidents reported since July 1, the date upon which the law took effect. Of these 80 per cent were not disabled longer than the two weeks required before the workman can get any compensation. Compensation has been awarded to 20 per cent of all the cases reported. Of the whole number less than 20 per cent have preferred to take the recourse afforded them by the law, that of trial by jury. About $192,000 has been awarded to workmen who have suffered from accidents other than fatal. Injured workmen have received half their wages for periods averaging a month. The most that a workman can receive is $10 a week and the least is $4, no matter how large or small his salary may be. The average wage of all the workmen is $12 and the average compensation is $6. Owing to the fact that the loss from accidents to employes has been made a fixed charge against industry has operated as a powerful incentive to prevent accidents. Dangerous occupations are becoming less so, for the insurance companies, with experts acting as do the fire underwriters, are teaching the employers how to eliminate danger. Not a case disposed of by the commission has been taken to court. The speed of operation which the commission has attained has been commendable and few, if any, cases have been undecided two weeks after the accident was reported, thus providing the injured with opportunity to draw compensation immediately the applicant is entitled to it.

COMMISSION REPORTS.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The commission appointed by Gov. Glasscock of West Virginia to investigate the conditions of coal miners and the causes leading up to the present conditions in the Kanawha coal field, has submitted its report. As was to be expected, it is entirely in favor of the coal operators, and in no wise recommends that the coal miners be guaranteed those rights to which every citizen of the United States is entitled. In the face of the fact that coal miners and other sympathizers are being railroaded to the penitentiary for trivial offenses, the commission fails to give any recognition to this phase of the situation. As a matter of fact, the commission is favorable to using the entire machinery of the State government to take from the coal miners of the State the right to organize or any other rights which American citizens are usually guaranteed. Notwithstanding the nature of the report of the commission, the United Mine Workers of America propose to continue their campaign until the time comes when the coal miners of that State shall have the right to organize and to sell their labor at the price fixed upon as fair, and to enjoy the privileges extended to citizens of the State in other walks of life.

NAGEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The annual report of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Charles Nagel, has just been submitted to the President. His recommendations are strongly against governmental commissions being clothed with authority to fix prices, the report declaring that self-regulation of business to the greatest extent consistent with the public welfare should be the guiding principle of the enactment of legislation upon the subject. A recommendation is included for the creation of an arbitration board to settle railroad labor disputes, and approves an international conference to secure greater safety of life at sea. The Secretary calls attention to the need of laws governing the personnel of crews, with a view to the general fitness of men employed in this capacity. Mention is made of the number of immigrants coming to this country, but makes no specific recommendation relative thereto.

UPWARD TREND IN PRICES.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—According to a recent report of the Department of Labor, wholesale prices in Canada rose slightly in October, standing at 133.1, as compared with 132.5 in September, and 129.9 in October, 1911. The decline in wheat, oats, hay, cattle, sheep, mutton, potatoes, linseed oil, hops and malt was offset by advances in milk, eggs, hog products, lemons, tomatoes, jute, iron, lead, tin, and other products. The feature of the month referred to was the widespread scarcity of coal from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan, with advancing prices.

OFFICIALS RESIGN.

Indianapolis, Dec. 28.—M. W. Mitchell, president, and James P. McHugh, secretary, of the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association of North America, at the recent convention held in this city, resigned their respective positions. To fill the vacancies thus caused Samuel Griggs, of Cleveland, Ohio, was elected president and Walter W. Drayer, of Columbus, Ohio, was elected secretary by action of the convention. The general offices of the organization are to be removed from Washington, D. C., to this city on January 1, 1913.

SWEARING OUT SUMMONS.

Timmins, Ontario, Dec. 28.—The Hollinger Gold Mines Company swore out summons en bloc against the 250 men who went on strike, the company alleging a breach of the Lemieux act. This is the first case of this kind under the act. It is stated that five mines, including those mentioned above, submitted their case to the conciliation board, but that the employes at the Hollinger mines left without giving notice, this being claimed to be a breach of the act.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Congress adjourned on December 19 and will reassemble again on January 2, 1913.

TO PUBLISHERS.

Washington, Dec. 28. — The American Federation of Labor Weekly News Letter goes to press on Wednesday evening of each week. It is mailed on Thursday. All items carry the date of the Saturday following the mailing. There may be occasions when further developments occur between the date of going to press and the date carried by the items. This explanation should be sufficient to all editors who are conversant with the methods usually employed in the compilation and issue of labor and other publications.

OPPOSE A. F. OF L.

Boston, Dec. 28.—There is an organization in this city composed of members of the city fire department, known as the Russell Club. This club has had under consideration the advisability of taking out a charter of affiliation from the American Federation of Labor. The fire commissioner of the city, Charles H. Cole, has registered his disapproval of this action, and while he is not violent in his opinions, yet a letter from him which was given general publicity, is based upon a misconception of the attitude of the American Federation of Labor toward organizations of this character. The general organizer of the American Federation of Labor in Boston, Frank H. McCarthy, has replied to the argument of the commissioner, in which the attitude of the American Federation of Labor is fully set forth. The representatives of the American Federation of Labor were confronted by a similar question before the committee on civil service reform of the House of Representatives last year in the matter of the organization of the men in the postal service. Secretary Frank Morrison, who appeared before the civil service reform committee, in substance, stated that the last resort of the organizations of labor in securing an adjustment of their grievances from private employers was the strike, but the last resort of organizations of labor whose members are employed by national, State and city governments, was legislation. The attitude of the Russell Club, composed of city firemen, toward the government of the city of Boston, would not be changed in any respect with reference to cessation of work were they to be affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, except by an affiliation with the last-named organization it would be incumbent upon the city firemen to recognize and accept the policy of the American Federation of Labor.

ANOTHER FAILURE.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—The Industrial Banner is authority for the statement that "another purely national or Canadian labor organization is on the rocks." The strike of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employes of the Canadian Pacific Railway system proved ineffective. This organization was organized and maintained upon the theory of "Canada for the Canadians," a slogan which the employers of labor are very enthusiastic over, this for the reason that the employers feel that if the strength of the American labor movement can be eliminated they will be able to successfully dictate to the unions in Canada as to all conditions. With the local unions in Canada attached to their respective international unions, thereby entitling them to receive the assistance of a powerful and effective labor movement, they are able to meet the employers in Canada on more equal terms and secure from them conditions and wages to which they are entitled. The experiences of purely local unions in Canada are of such a character as to prove to the Canadian trade unionists that the imaginary line which divides the United States and Canada should not be used as a means of dividing the forces of labor.

SAVANNAH NEWS.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 28. — Building Trades Department is about to be organized, all preliminary arrangements having been made, committees now working on constitution and by-laws to govern the new organization. A charter will be sought from the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L. The electricians, who were organized here a few months ago, have established one of the best unions in the city. The membership includes every eligible electrician in the city and agreements have just been signed with all shops calling for the eight-hour day and a wage rate of 50 cents per hour. One of the most successful strikes has been won by the ladies' tailors. This organization was organized about a year ago, and began efforts to secure an increase in wages and better conditions. Finally an agreement was drawn up and presented to the employers, but it was turned down. After a contest of short duration the employers receded from their position, the agreement was signed and the tailors went back to work.

CHANGE LABOR DAY LAW.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Owing to a defect in the law enumerating legal holidays to be observed by the government, the Comptroller of the Treasury decided that employes working on Labor Day were not entitled to extra compensation. It was found that his contention was sustained by the statute covering this matter. In consequence thereof, there was a bill passed in the House of Representatives on December 16, making the first Monday in September, Labor Day, a legal holiday and providing that all per diem employes of the government of the United States shall receive the same pay on Labor Day as for other legal holidays. Where per diem government employes have been required to work on designated holidays they receive double pay, but according to the ruling, as mentioned above Labor Day was not included among the other legal holidays. No opposition developed and the bill was passed by the House without opposition.

RE-ELECT WHITE.

Indianapolis, Dec. 28.—It is practically a foregone conclusion that John P. White, now president of the United Mine Workers of America, has been re-elected, as there was no opposition candidate against him in the election which has just closed. As to the other offices over which there was a contest, no report has been given out.

CLEVELAND PAINTERS.

Cleveland, Dec. 28.—There is a well-defined disposition on the part of the union painters in this city to receive an increase in the wage rate paid in this city. Recently the carpenters secured an advance in wages, without friction, effective next April, and it is believed that the painters also will be able to secure a similar advance.